

Spain

Key facts in 1929

Area: 505'992 km²^[1]

With Colonies: 806'940 km²^[1,2,3,4]

Population: 22.1 Million^[2,5]

With Colonies: 23.3 Million^[2,5]

Life expectancy: 50.1 years^[6]

With Colonies: 49 years^[7]

Literacy rate: 74.4%^[8]

With Colonies: ~72%

Biggest Minorities: Moroccans, Catalans, Basques, Sephardic Jews, Moriscos

Select Main Cities: Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Valencia, Bilbao, Zaragoza^[1]

In Colonies: Villa Cisneros (Dakhla), Tetuán (Tétouan)^[3,4]

Neighboring countries: France, Andorra, Portugal, United Kingdom
With Colonies: French Algeria, French Morocco, French West-Africa^[9]

Sea Access: Yes, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean

GDP: 8'300'000'000 \$1929^[10]

With Colonies: 8'400'000'000\$1929^[10,34]

Recent Historical Background

The Restoration of 1874 brought an end to the brief experiment with republican government, which saw the monarchy reclaiming its position of power after the collapse of the short-lived First Spanish Republic.^[11] During World War 1, Spain remained neutral. This led to both positive economic effects, such as a benefit from increased trade opportunities due to Spanish neutrality as well as negative effects such as inflation, dropping imports and increasing poverty in the already-poor south.^[12] Spain also was gravely hit by the 1918-1920 Spanish flu epidemic, killing more than 260'000 Spaniards in the process.^[13] Later, the Rif War (1921-1926) in northern Morocco strained Spain's military and economic resources, exacerbating existing social tensions.^[14,15] Another



significant events in recent Spanish history were the failed 1926 and 1929 coups d'état, attempting to end the dictatorship of Primo De Rivera, which started in 1923^[16,17,18]

Political Situation

In 1929, Spain was a constitutional monarchy with a one-party military dictatorship led by King Alfonso XIII, who was the second King of the Restoration^[11], and Prime Minister Primo de Rivera.^[19,20] The system had strong corporatist elements and Roman Catholicism as the state religion.^[11,21] Initially supportive of Catalans, Primo de Rivera later pursued an anti-Catalan agenda.^[20]

Economic Situation in 1929

During the late 1920s, Spain underwent a significant economic transformation, transitioning from a predominantly agrarian economy to one marked by burgeoning industrialization. While agriculture remained important, particularly with the cultivation of fruits, garden products, and specialty crops like oranges and almonds, the country experienced a notable industrial boom, especially in basic industries and electricity generation. Major industrial hubs emerged in regions like Catalonia, Madrid, and the Basque Country, interconnected through growing territorial specialization and intra-industry trade. This economic shift was driven by various factors, including post-war recovery, urbanization, electrification, and substantial public investment in infrastructure projects.^[22,23]

Military Strength in 1929

In 1929, Spain's army used about 12 Renault FT light tanks, 6 Schneider CA1 tanks, and one Fiat 3000A tank.^[24] It also, among others, used about 24 torpedo boats, 10 fighter vessels (acquired in 1907), 5 fast cruisers, 9 destroyers, 28 submarine and 3 gunboats, all either acquired after 1917 or during the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera.^[25] Spain's total aircraft amounted to over 500, with key aircraft being the Nieuport-Delage NiD.52, the Loring R-III or the Breguet 19.^[26] Spain had about 132'000 active personnel in 1929 and its total military spending amounted to about 2.81% of the total Spanish GDP of 1929.^[27,28]

Key Facts about Military Strength of Spain ^[10,24,25,26,27,28,29]	
Active personnel	132'000
Tanks	~20
Cavalry	unknown
Other vehicles	unknown
Ships	~70
Planes	>500
Funding in 1929\$	233'438'000

Allies/Enemies/Existing territorial disputes in 1929

Allies: Italy (Friendly relations between Primo de Rivera and Mussolini)^[30]; France (Partner in Rif War against Rif Republic)^[31]

Territorial Dispute: Gibraltar (very long-lasting territorial dispute with the United Kingdom)^[32]

Some of the main Goals for the 1930s

1. Political stability: Spain has had several failed coup attempts in the years going up to 1929. Spain might have interest in avoiding such things to happen in future years.
2. Economic recovery after Great Depression: Avoid an economic slowdown of 20% [Which was what happened in the 1930s]^[33]

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